



Resilient Neighbors Network



Peer-to-peer sharing to create safe,
secure, and sustainable
communities

Introduction



Seven charter members of the Resilient Neighbors Network met in Colorado, July 2012.
Seated: Marcy Leach, Rockford, IL, and Sheryl Siddiqui, Tulsa, OK. Standing: Chuck Wallace, Grays Harbor County, WA; Daya Dayandanda, Pasadena, TX; Barbara Miller, Jefferson County, WV; Mike Kline, Vermont; Tom Bennett, Tulsa, OK.

- How can we reduce loss by creating resilient communities?
- Today talking about two possible answers:
 - NHMA
 - Resilient Neighbors Network

Resilient Neighbors Network



Charter members, Resilient Neighbors Network Steering Committee.

- A new peer-to-peer sharing network among communities working to become disaster resilient and sustainable.
- Includes a steering committee of 10 pilot community representatives and an NHMA facilitation team.
- Created in 2012 with support from FEMA and a Blue-Ribbon Advisory Team.
- Completed framework plan for RNN in 2012.

10 RNN pilot communities



Augusta, GA

Central Shenandoah Valley, VA

Charlotte-Mecklenberg, NC

Grays Harbor County, WA

Hillsborough County, FL

Jefferson County, WV

Pasadena, TX

Rockford, IL

Tulsa, OK

Vermont

Augusta, Georgia

- Inland city
- Floods, tornadoes, urban sprawl
- Planning, preparedness & prevention
- Citizen and stakeholder engagement
- Updating 5-year hazard mitigation plan
- Supporting safer, stronger, & more resilient buildings
- Conducting acquisition, relocation & retrofitting within the floodplain
- Protecting natural resources



"Resilience demands that the whole community works together."

Central Shenandoah Valley, Virginia



- Includes 5 counties, 5 cities, 11 towns.
- Mountains and rivers run through the community
- Main threats are floods, tropical systems, winter storms, & tornadoes.
- Emphasis on regional and local plans for all hazards, including wildfire.
- Flood mitigation includes acquisition.
- Citizen action and partnerships include CERT and special programs for vulnerable people.
- Focus on collaborative planning and building relationships.

"We all help each other, because everyone in this region has to be in it together to remain resilient."

Charlotte-Mecklenberg, North Carolina



- Major city with consolidated city-county government.
- Combines protection of lives & property with restoration of natural functions of floodplains.
- Uses higher regulatory standards based on future floodplain maps.
- Voluntary purchase of 250 high-risk floodplain buildings. Uses “quick-buy” system.
- Prototype flood warning system.
- Aggressive, invaluable partnership network includes Realtors and developers.
- Community Risk Assessment and Risk Reduction Plan uses advanced flood models and customized Risk MAP data sets, along with local data, to evaluate risk and make mitigation decisions

"Continuing to use FEMA's existing conditions flood insurance maps to regulate new construction would only continue the cycle of flooding and rebuild for generations to come... Gaining support from local elected officials and community partners like Realtors and developers was essential to change course and create a more sustainable future."

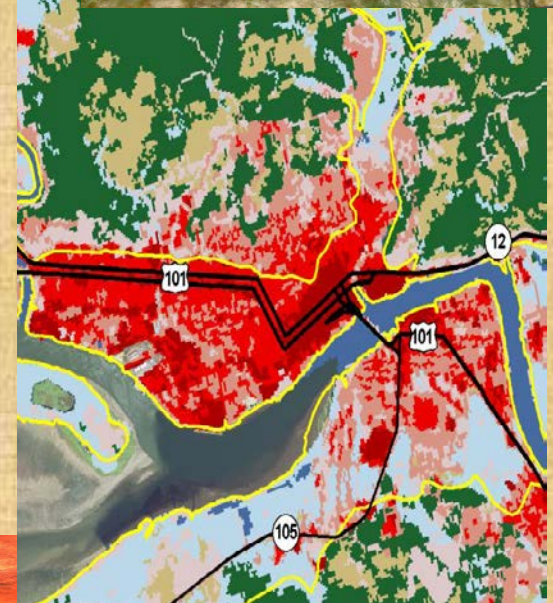
Grays Harbor County, Washington

- On the Pacific rim, south of Seattle.
 - 9 cities, 2 tribes, islands, mountains & rivers.
 - Flood, earthquake, tsunami, severe storms, volcano.
 - Working to draw together fragmented communities.
 - Focused on preparedness and planning.
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- A tsunami can strike with 20-min. warning and flood far inland, stranding people who have no time to reach high ground.
 - Creating a prototype “vertical evacuation” tsunami building to hold 700 students and faculty, plus 500 community members.

*"Preparing for disaster is
a continual process...
We're making progress."*



Visit unforgettable Grays Harbor County any season.



Hillsborough County, Florida

- Includes major city, Tampa, on west coast of Florida.
- Hazards include hurricanes, floods, severe storms.
- Encourages hazard mitigation, including elevation of homes in safe sites, planning, and public education.
- Encourages homeowner action.
- Hurricane storm surge could extend 3 miles inland, 13-17 feet deep.
- Landmark plan focuses on how to recover.
- Identifies priority redevelopment areas where rebuilding will be encouraged and incentivized.



"Our plan identifies how our community will redevelop and recover. It emphasizes seizing opportunities for building back better and improving our community."

Jefferson County, WV



"Our strength lies in our relationships (and) involving the whole community."

- Appalachian county with rich heritage that dates back to founding of our nation.
- Just outside Washington, DC.
- Hazards include flooding, wildfires, winter storms, droughts, and terrorism. Recent "derecho" windstorm.
- Exemplary partnership process that involves hundreds of businesses, agencies, vulnerable populations, and citizens in continual planning, drills, and implementation.
- Disaster-Ready Kids, StormReady, hazard mitigation planning, and COOP programs.

Pasadena, TX

- Low-lying town near Gulf, south of Houston.
- Hurricanes, tropical storms, inland flooding, storm surge.
- Recovering from heavy 2008 damage in Hurricane Ike.
- Created prototype Program for Public Information to engage citizenry.
- Outreach includes bilingual and vulnerable populations.
- Partnership model and targeted outreach.
- Programs include hazard mitigation, environmental protection, infrastructure and land use management.



*"All communications are bilingual.
This is so important, so that everyone
understand what is happening."*

Rockford, Illinois



- Small city in Northern Illinois.
- With 2 counties, developing a major regional plan for sustainable development.
- Very broad work program includes hazard mitigation and environmental protection.
- Walkable streetscapes and parks, alternate energy, greenhouse gas issues, energy conservation, and disaster resilience.
- Acquiring floodplain properties to create parks.

"Our growth strategy enhances neighborhood livability, balances new development with infill, promotes agriculture, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, introduces walkable landscapes, conserves natural resources, and rejuvenates historic economic centers."

Tulsa, Oklahoma



- Inland community of 400,000.
- Long history of flooding problems, with severe storms, tornadoes, and chemical hazards.
- Made dramatic strides in reducing frequency of floods since 1984 & 1986 disasters.
- Comprehensive management program includes aggressive regulation, floodplain clearance, watershed management, all-hazards planning & environmental protection.
- Cleared 1,000+ floodplain buildings.
- Emphasizes collaboration and partnerships, spurred by Project Impact (1998-2001) and the nonprofit Tulsa Partners, Inc.

*“We do everything through partnerships
-- linking together government, businesses,
Nonprofits, and grassroots citizens.”*

Vermont



- The Green Mountain state.
- Many mountain streams with high velocities.
- Frequent flash floods, serious streambank erosion.
- Three big storms devastated half the state in 2011.
- Still recovering from Irene.
- Working to build back better.
- Encouraging communities in recovery and hazard mitigation and planning – Flood-Resilient Communities Program.
- Encouraging smart growth, walkable communities, sound regulation.

"We're building partnerships and integrating river science and river protection into ... a unified approach to floodplain management, hazard mitigation, water quality protection, and community development."

Conclusion

“Working together, we can create a better world by reinvigorating our grassroots.”

